

REMARKS

Claims 1, 5, 7-13, and 17-33 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 5, 7-13, and 17-33 are canceled without acquiescence the Examiner's previous actions, without abandonment of the invention of canceled claims, and without applicants' right to pursue claims to this subject matter in any application for patent that may be filed in the future. Claims 34-100 have been added. Claims 34-100 are supported by the specification as originally filed.

The specification has been amended to correct obvious typographical errors. In the paragraph spanning pages 10 and 11, the prefix "poly" was inadvertently included to describe the recited monomers. Accordingly, the specification has been amended to recite that the monomers are ethylacrylic acid, propylacrylic acid, and butylacrylic acid. Their abbreviations have also been corrected. The incorrect designation of the random copolymer "EA-AA" has been corrected to recite "EAA-AA". Applicants regret any confusion caused by these typographical errors.

In view of the above amendments, applicants believe that Claims 34-100 are in condition for allowance. If any issues remain that may be expeditiously addressed in a telephone interview, the examiner is encouraged to telephone applicants' attorney at 206.695.1755.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date:

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE APRIL 9, 2002

In the Specification:

Random, block and graft copolymers that include acrylate groups and alkyl substituted acrylate groups are preferred. Preferably, the alkyl group is a C₁₋₆ straight, branched or cyclic alkane. Preferred monomers for use in preparing the polymeric materials include [poly(ethylacrylic acid) (PEAA)] ethylacrylic acid (EAA), [poly(propylacrylic acid) (PPAA)] propylacrylic acid (PAA), and [poly(butylacrylic acid) (PBAA)] butylacrylic acid (BAA). Copolymers of these monomers by themselves or including acrylic acid can be used. An example of a random copolymer is [EA-AA] EAA-AA. This may be modified by grafting of either component to the backbone of the other component, or as a block copolymer of a block of one conjugated to a block of the other.

Claims 1, 5, 7-13, and 17-33 are canceled.

Claims 34-100 have been added.

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